

Early messenger count tops 1,500 in Amarillo

October 29, 2007

Posted: 10/29/07

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More than 1,500 messengers were registered at the Baptist General Convention annual meeting by 11 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 29, two hours before the opening session.

This afternoon, messengers will vote on the 2008 Cooperative Program budget and elect a new president. Announced nominees are Joy Fenner—a former missionary to Japan, executive director emeritus of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas and the endorsed candidate of Texas Baptists Committed—or David Lowrie—a West Texas pastor whose backers have called for an "open election" and who have expressed discontent with recent actions by BGCT leaders.

Fenner would be the first woman BGCT president. Lowrie would be the first second-generation BGCT president and the first nominee in the last two decades not endorsed by the moderate Texas Baptists Committed political organization. Lowrie was endorsed by several Baptist bloggers.

Check back throughout the day for updated news from Amarillo.

First woman BGCT president elected

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First woman BGCT president elected

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

AMARILLO—Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting narrowly elected the first woman president of the state convention—and continued a two-decade string of officers endorsed by the moderate Texas Baptists Committed organization.

Mike Massar

Fenner, a former missionary to Japan, executive director emeritus of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas and incumbent BGCT first vice president, was elected over Panhandle pastor David Lowrie. Fenner received 900 votes (52 percent), compared to 840 (48 percent) for Lowrie.

‘No confidence’ in Executive Board motion introduced

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‘No confidence’ in Executive Board motion introduced

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

AMARILLO—A motion expressing “no confidence” in the directors of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as well as a competing motion objecting to it, were introduced during the Monday afternoon session at the BGCT annual meeting.

Michael Chancellor, pastor of Crescent Heights Baptist Church in Abilene, introduced the no-confidence motion, and Dan Malone from First Baptist Church in El Paso introduced the motion of objection.

Tyler pastor elected first vice president

October 29, 2007

Posted: 10/29/07

Tyler pastor elected first vice president

By Blake Killingsworth

Dallas Baptist University

AMARILLO—Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas elected Mike Massar, pastor of First Baptist Church in Tyler, as first vice president.

Mike Massar

Massar received 967 votes, compared to 257 for Lee Saunders, minister of church development at Garden Oaks Baptist Church in Houston.

RIGHT or WRONG? Need for forgiveness

October 29, 2007

Posted: 10/26/07

RIGHT or WRONG? Need for forgiveness

We recently discussed forgiveness in Sunday school. When we talked about seeking God's forgiveness, a longtime member said he never sinned, so there was little application to him. How can we helpfully address this matter?

All-State Choir & Band trip to Germany still on

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All-State Choir & Band trip to Germany

still on

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

In spite of budget reductions and cutbacks in the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board staff, the scheduled Texas Baptist All-State Choir and Band's Mission: Germany trip next summer will proceed as planned, organizers have announced.

The Texas Baptist All-State musicians had been invited to participate in the Baptist World Youth Congress in Leipzig, Germany, and perform at several venues in Berlin and Wittenberg.

**International
Baptist
Church
in Berlin**

Contributions to help lower the cost of the trip may be sent to either the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation at 333 N. Washington, Dallas 75246-1798 or directly to the BGCT Music and Worship Team at the same address.

Around the State

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Members of the staff and the building committee at First Church in Sanger dedicated a \$1.7 million multi-purpose family life center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The 21,000-square-foot building includes a full-service kitchen and can be used as a gym and as education space. E.L. McNeal is the pastor.

Around the State

- **East Texas Baptist University** has received a gift from retired educator and businessman J. Lloyd Woods to provide lighting for the ETBU Tiger baseball stadium. Woods, of Tenaha, is an honorary lifetime member of the university's board of trustees. The Tigers' first night baseball game will be held Feb. 8.
- **Baylor Research Institute in Dallas** is collaborating with Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City to provide a shot of hope for lymphoma and myeloma patients. The medical organizations are attempting

to develop vaccines for the cancers, which affect the immune system. They're also studying better ways to diagnose other autoimmune disorders, such as arthritis and lupus.

- **Don and Paula Cribbs**, missionaries to Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, are on furlough at First Church in Cleburne. They can be reached at (817) 641-5264 or at don@gmail.com.



First graders
in the Music
Makers Choir
at Wilshire
Baptist Church
in Dallas
receive their
own copies of
the Baptist
Hymnal.
Presenting the
hymnals are
Music
Associate
Sarah Stafford
and Music
Minister Doug
Haney.
Children
shown are
Tanner
Cabaniss,
Brooke
Bateman,
Tristan Vathis,
Hannah
Granberry,
Jace Dooley,
Remy Covert,
Allison Dalton,
Cullen Bryant,
Anna Fogg,
Isabella Fogg,
Riley Covert,
Austin
Nadalini, Blake
Brown and
Daniel
Mirochna. The
choir is
directed by
Janice and Bill
Jernberg.

- **Nicole Bromley**, founder of OneVOICE and author of *Hush: Moving from Silence to Healing after Childhood Sexual Abuse*, will speak Nov. 7 at First Baptist Church in Brownwood as part of Howard Payne University's chapel program.
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Seven young Baylor alumni to be honored at homecoming

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Seven young Baylor alumni to be honored at homecoming

The president of a Texas Baptist facility for the aging is one of seven Baylor University graduates who will be honored as 2007 Outstanding Young Alumni during Baylor's annual homecoming celebration.

The Baylor Alumni Association will present the awards Nov. 2 during the first performance at Pigskin Review. The awards recognize professional achievement and distinguished service by Baylor alumni 40 years old or younger.

	
Pat Crump	Marie Brown

Pat Crump, a 1991 Baylor graduate, has served as president of Baptist Memorials Ministries in San Angelo since 2004. After earning a master's degree in gerontology from Baylor in 1993, he worked one year with a nursing center in Albuquerque, N.M., before moving to the newly opened Baptist Memorials Center in San Angelo.

He served for 10 years as president of healthcare services, overseeing the operation of a long-term care facility, an Alzheimer's facility, a pharmacy and a home health agency.

Bexar County youthful offenders find a second chance with KAPS

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Bexar County youthful offenders find a second chance with KAPS

By Haley Smith

Baptist Child & Family Services

AN ANTONIO—A growing number of South Texas juvenile offenders are hearing good news—jail is not their only option—thanks to an expanding

relationship between the Juvenile Probation Department and Kids Adverted from Placement Services.

KAPS, a program of Baptist Child & Family Services that has provided intensive family preservation services for youthful offenders for nine years, recently received an additional \$325,000 from Juvenile Probation. This has allowed the program to increase from four to six the number of three-person teams—which translates into helping an additional 56 families a year.

“We think programs such as KAPS are ultimately going to take the place of (incarceration in Texas Youth Commission facilities) and other traditional methods.”

-Jeannine Von Stultz

One blogging minister

nominates another for first VP

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One blogging minister nominates another for first VP

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

A Baptist blogger from Mineral Wells plans to nominate a Baptist blogger from Houston for first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

David Montoya, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mineral Wells, has announced he will nominate Lee Saunders, minister of church development at Garden Oaks Baptist Church in Houston, for office during the BGCT annual meeting in Amarillo.

Lee Saunders

Texas Baptists launch young

leaders network

October 29, 2007

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Texas Baptists launch young leaders network

By John Hall

Texas Baptists Communications

AUSTIN—The Baptist General Convention of Texas recently started a young leaders network in an effort to encourage Baptists younger than 40 in their efforts to strengthen churches.

The Texas Baptist Young Professional Leaders Network has had 160 people connect with it in its first five months of existence. Many of the members are connected through Facebook, an online social networking site popular with college students and recent graduates.

The group is scheduling a series of dinners around the state where 20-something young adults gather to discuss Baptists beliefs and reasons they are Baptists. Then they brainstorm ways they can strengthen Baptist churches.

Evangelicals are moving into power, but ends can be unclear, author says

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Evangelicals are moving into power, but ends can be unclear, author says

By Robert Marus

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—There's no question that in the last few decades evangelical Christians have asserted their growing power in America's public life.

But veteran reporter Hanna Rosin asks, "By what method and to what end?"